



NEIGHBORS NEWS

DECATUR CITY ELECTIONS Candidates and Issues

The City Commission of Decatur is composed of five members and is the only elected board in the City. Two contested races will be voted for on Wednesday, December 3. Voters will choose between Bob Carpenter and Lyn Deardorff and also between Lew Ballard and Ted O'Callaghan. On November 20, the Decatur Neighborhood Alliance held a forum where citizens could question the candidates.

General Remarks

Carpenter - Bob Carpenter emphasized his roots in the city -- 25 years residence and 10 years on the Commission. He stated that following the ill feelings generated by last year's development plans, the Commission had taken steps to put it back in touch with the community, including opening its work sessions to the public for the first time. He denied allegations that he was persuaded to reverse his decision not to run again by persons with special interests in downtown development, or that such persons would improperly influence his decisions. Overall, he was proud of his record on the Commission.

Deardorff - Lyn Deardorff emphasized her efforts on behalf of citizens' input in Decatur concerns, including her prominent roles in the Downtown Redevelopment Task Force, the 1979 Transportation Task Force, the Decatur Neighborhood Alliance, the Winnona Park Neighbors' Association, Historic Decatur, and the redevelopment of old Scottish Rite into the new Community Center. She promised to bring a grass roots view to the Commission, both in procedure (e.g., giving more advance notice of Commission agenda), and through continuing her personal contact with neighborhood groups and citizens. She further vowed to keep close relations with the city merchants and stated that her management consultant background would qualify her to closely examine the budget.

Ballard - Lew Ballard spoke of his long-time involvement in city affairs, including his attendance upon City Commission meetings and his publishing of Inside Decatur. He stated that, if elected, he could not force the Commission to do anything but he could ask questions that are presently going unasked. He cited as an example the budget approval process where he said the past several budgets prepared by the permanent city staff have passed without revision or substantial examination. Decatur's only elected body, he said, needed to exercise closer supervision over the permanent city bureaucracy. In response to a personal attack from the floor for his placing his child in private school, he stated that his child suffered a learning disability and, as a father, he felt bound to follow professional advice and send her to the Howard School, which handles such problems.

O'Callaghan - Ted O'Callaghan asked the audience whether they liked living in Decatur. He suggested that Decatur's good points "didn't just happen", that the Commission sets the tone and flavor for what the city will be like and if you like the city, you should re-elect the City Commissioners. He also decried one-issue politics, which he felt was becoming too pronounced in city affairs.

Transportation - All candidates agreed on transportation issues, being against new major thoroughfares but in favor of non-obtrusive traffic improvements such as signalization, turning lanes, and the like.

Taxes - All candidates favored tax relief for the elderly, the challengers asking why more had not yet been done. The incumbents saw the primary prospect for relief in development expanding the tax base. The challengers pointed out that Decatur has the highest tax rate in the state and the highest rate allowed by law. With assessments likely to double next year, ending this limitation, they suggested that attention needed to be focused on controlling expenditures and not just on expanding the tax base. Deardorff favored a city homestead exemption.

Development:

Carpenter - Downtown development should be planned. Development will not necessarily just happen without encouragement from the city and concessions to what is acceptable to a top-drawer developer; not opposed to higher density development in residential neighborhoods; no problems expressed with existing zoning laws.

Deardorff - Development should be on an appropriate scale for Decatur and development of vacant land and rehabilitating existing buildings a first priority. High density residential development should be limited to commercial areas. Revamp of zoning laws needed; need historic preservation of neighborhoods.

Ballard - Similarly favors organic development downtown. Development should use private monies. Our federal tax dollars should only be used where private funds are not available. An example was the Community Center of South Decatur. Dubious about high density residential development; city needs to determine whether additional demands for services outweigh additional taxes generated; comprehensive zoning and land-use study needed.

O'Callaghan - Downtown development needs planning and support, won't just happen. Not apologetic for support of Zuchelli-Hines plan-it would have generated a lot of tax revenues. Favors taking advantage of all available federal monies. Not opposed to higher density residential development in the neighborhoods. No problem expressed with existing zoning.

City Government and Structure - The incumbents supported Decatur's dual registration and at-large election of commissioners; the challengers favored the appointment of a citizens' task force to examine these issues and the overall structure of city government.



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NOV 4th ELECTION RESULTS

Shown below are the final vote counts for the Winnona Precinct in all the contested DeKalb County races in the November 4th general election:

County Commission Chairman
Rook Boynton - R 216
Manuel Maloof - D 894

County Commissioner (At-Large)
Brince Manning - D 753
Beth Simmons - R 292

State House (District 52)
Eleanor Richardson - D 559
Martha Andrews - R 168

State Senate (District 55)
Bud Stumbaugh - D 753
Bobby Roberts - R 198

Superior Court Clerk
Whit Smith - R 555
J. Lee Stanley - D 423

DeKalb Superior Court Judge
Keegan Federal - D 818
Charles D. Read, Jr. - R 221

Tax Commissioner
Eugene E. Adams - R 600
Roger Fuller - D 432

Sheriff
Pat Jarvis - D 946
Ray Bonner - R 169

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Re-Elect

Ted O'Callaghan

Endorsed by:

- Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Eush
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fox
- Mr. & Mrs. Bob Royse
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Strickland

VOTE ON DEC. 3



SCHOOL NEWS

Winnona Park

The Winnona Park PTA Spaghetti Supper November 14th was very successful, thanks to the efforts of the parents and teachers of the PTA and to the students who participated in the sale of tickets. Prizes were given to the following students for selling the most tickets:

- Kindergarden - 3rd Grade:
 1st prize - Mark Lewis
 (Hilldale)
 2nd prize - Alana Whitaker
 (Driftwood Ter.)
- 4th - 6th Grade:
 1st prize - Glenn Moriale
 (Kirk)
 2nd prize - Alex Horton
 (Mimosa Pl.)

Teachers at Winnona Park need tutors. You don't have to be a parent and there is no age limitation. If you can spare time to help a child, call Anne Branscome at 377-9497.

The PTA would also like to remind residents to Save Newspapers. The paper container at the school will be emptied as fast as we can fill it up.

Winnona Park Elementary School will have its Christmas Program on Friday, December 12th, at 7:30 p.m. Don't miss it!

**Let's elect Lew Ballard,
Decatur City Commission.**

"Dr. Ballard, over the past few years, has been by far the most involved citizen in all phases of city government."
Steve and Bettye Manson/Kirk Road

"Lew is never hesitant to take a stand on an important issue. I have absolute faith in his honesty and integrity."
Catherine Carter/South Candler Street

Let's elect Lew Ballard,

Renfroe Middle School

On Oct. 3rd, Renfroe students elected their student council officers for the school year:

Co-pres: Lakita McCoy-8th grade
Roderick Lewis-7th grade
Secretary: Jennifer Jackson
(Heatherdown)

Treasurer - Lisa Reynolds

Renfroe also has a great school newsletter this year - the Renfroe Tattler - sponsored by Ms. Bates. Students receive the newsletter each Fri., so ask your kids to share.

The PTA's "Halloween" Spaghetti Supper held on Oct. 30th was well attended. Entertainment was provided by the school chorus and decorations of colorful corn & gourds were loaned for the occasion by the DeKalb Farmers Market. The N. Decatur McDonalds supplied all cups and napkins free of charge and a few "cheers by the Renfroe cheerleaders topped off the evening.



MIMOSA GARDEN CLUB

By: Liz O'Brien

The bake sale at the Winnona Park PTA Spaghetti Supper on November 14th was a huge success. Profits from the sale, after a nominal donation to the school for the use of its facilities, will be used for Garden Club projects. Thanks to all those who devoted their time and energy to the sale.

Our Christmas Social will be announced later. This is an annual event for all those who live on Mimosa Drive and Mimosa Place.

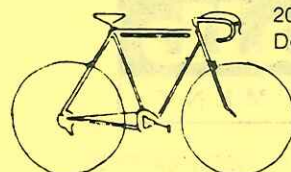
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COMMISSION NOTES



By Catherine Carter

The October 20th meeting of the Decatur City Commission began with the recognition of two employees. Mrs. Ethleen (Susie) Wages has worked in the Police Department for 25 years. Mr. Mac Arnold has been with the Sanitation Department for 15 years.

Acting on a recommendation of the neighborhood traffic studies, it was agreed to construct speed diminishers on Avery St. and on Sycamore St. as a pilot project.

The recommendations made by the Small Cities Community Development Program were adopted without change. The creation of the E. Lake MARTA station resulted in the formation of a new and yet unnamed street. This small street forms an arc from E. Lake Drive to College Ave. Suggestions for possible names were requested.

At the work session preceding the November 3rd Commission meeting, the four potential sites for the replacement for the old Ebster pool were discussed. The possibilities for use of MARTA parking lot (corner of Church St. and Sycamore St.) for metered parking were considered.

At the regular meeting the Commission pondered the problem of voter registration - whether or not to retain lists separate from the County lists of registered voters.

At the work session prior to the November 17th Commission meeting, Mr. Williams presented Decatur property reassessments and told how these reassessments were derived.

Next on the agenda was the swimming pool site selection. A tour of four possible pool sites by Commission members and three Beacon residents had preceded the meeting. At least seventeen residents of the area encouraged the adoption of Site 2 (Ebster Park). The Commissioners agreed to this site for the pool.

The Commission agreed to an increase of \$3,728 in the cost required to complete the Lower Sugar Creek Retention Pond (South Decatur area).

Neighbors' Exchange

Call Penny Wistrand (373-2571, ext. 240 or 378-6391) or Susan Purdom (377-5531 or 378-2931)

Saturday, December 6th, 10-1:30 p.m.
Window Painting Contest & Visit Santa Claus. City Plaza - Decatur.
For entry, call Decatur Recreation Department: 377-0494.

Saturday, December 13, 10-4 p.m.
Santa Bazaar at Old Belk's store.
Visit Santa & shop for Christmas.

Saturday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.
Live Nativity-Singing. Lawn of Decatur Presbyterian Church

Wanted: children's used shoe skates.
Size 1 (girls) and size 2 (boys).
Call Catherine Carter: 373-6187.

House for Rent: 195 Avery St. Avail. April 1st - Sept. 1st, 1981.
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, furnished Liv. room, dining room & den.
Deposit. No Pets. \$400/mo. Call Harry or Penny Wistrand at (day) 373-2571, ext. 240, (evenings) 378-6391.

For Sale. 1973 Toyota Carina.
94,000 mi. automatic trans. w/ air conditioner. Mechanically excellent. \$1600. Call Wistrands (see numbers above).

Wanted: Someone who can do clothing alterations. Call Margaret

DEARDORFF for DECATUR

Thanks for your support!
Lyn Deardorff

**City Commission
Dec. 3**

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T
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